

**From:** Bob Blake  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 12:37pm  
**Subject:** MICROSOFT SETTLEMENT

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13 Ethel Avenue  
Peabody, MA 01960

January 27, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Three years ago, Microsoft was brought to trial for antitrust violations. I have been of the opinion from the start that this has been a false case. Federal antitrust laws are stifling in a global market. Microsoft has never presented a threat to the consumer by using its market dominance to raise prices or to offer a shoddy product. Microsoft would never have been so successful if the consumer had not been satisfied with its actions. Now Microsoft's competitors are upset because they are unable to pry consumers away from Microsoft. They instigated the case in the first place, and now they are seeking to overturn the settlement and bring additional litigation against Microsoft.

I do not believe it is necessary to bring additional litigation against Microsoft. By doing so, these states are essentially crippling America. Foreign competitors are not subject to the same laws that American businesses are, and all this infighting is making the American market vulnerable to foreign interests. Putting reins on Microsoft's behavior is the same as encouraging foreign competitors to step in. The settlement should be finalized as soon as possible, for the good of the economy, the industry, and the consumer. The settlement allows Microsoft to remain intact, which is, I believe, wise. It also gives Microsoft's competitors a chance to work with Microsoft as well as compete directly. For example, Microsoft has agreed to provide its competitors with source code integral to the Windows operating system so that they will be able to operate within the Microsoft framework. Microsoft also plans to reformat upcoming versions of Windows so that the operating system will support non-Microsoft software.

Microsoft's competitors are not going to gain any greater advantage by continuing litigation. In fact, it is quite possible that they will end up doing America more harm than good. I ask you to support the finalization of the settlement.

Sincerely,

*Robert Blake Jr*

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